

War in Europe

The Invasion of Poland (Casanovas, Karina)

- Two separate army group led the German attack from the north and the south
- **September 1, 1939**

Military Strategy

- Massive number of tanks
 - Supported by close air support
 - Constant attempt to punch holes in enemy lines and then quickly onto the next target
- Used elements of surprise and speed for German offensive
- Polish army was inferior to German military machine in both quantity and quality so their forces were overwhelmed in the first few days

Russia's Attack

- **September 17, 1939**
- Excuse of protecting Russians living on eastern Poland
- This fulfilled the secret protocols of the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact
- Poland losses:
 - 70,000 dead
 - 30,000 wounded
 - 700,000 prisoners
- German losses:
 - 11,000 dead
 - 30,000 wounded
 - 3,400 M.I.A.

British Intelligence

- They made inroads to crack the German Enigma
 - Used info sourced by the Polish
- 1939 – Polish intelligence started to crack German military codes (created by Enigma ciphering machine)
- Polish shared insights with French and British
 - Vital element to help to help Allies defeat Nazi forces in Europe
- British intelligence was able to decode German radio traffic during the war
- Allowed Allied forces to survive the threat of German submarines

American Neutrality in 1939

- 1920s – growing isolationist movement gained strength in the U.S.
 - Argued that American interests would be best served by focusing the country's attention only on the Western Hemisphere and leaving Europe to sort out its own problems
 - Origin of movement: debate over the world of American involvement in WW1
- Objections to U.S. participation in any future war ranged—includes
 - i. Pacifism
 - ii. Opposition to corporate profiteering during wars
 - iii. Distrust European powers

Neutrality Acts of 1935

- 1930s – *Neutrality Acts passed to prevent America from getting involved in future wars*
- *Neutrality Acts of 1935 did 3 things:*
 - i. *Forbade the export of military weapons to hostile nations once a state of war is declared by the president*
 - ii. *Restricted use of American ports by hostile nations*
 - iii. *Allowed president to declare that Americans traveling on ships of hostile nations did so at their own risks*
- *Many Americans favored supporting the Allied powers against Germany but stopped short of direct military involvement*

Attack on France (Jesri, Dalia)

- Assault on France began on May 10, 1940 (include Belgium & Netherlands) Dutch resistance lasted to May 13
- Dutch government fled to Great Britain (Belgian forces did too)
- British military thought Germany's main attack on France would come through Belgium(similarly to WWII)
- Germany lured France and Britain while attacking them through the Ardennes Forest
- May 15, Erwin Rommel most feared & respected of German commanders caused the Allied defensive line falter
- June 10, 1940 Italy declared war on France, German forces advanced causing the French government to fall apart
- June 16, Henri Phillippe Petain had power over French government & six days later arranged hostilities with Germany
- Germany would occupy northern part of France & southern part of France would be left as an independent country
- Vichy France: new French state & capital city would be one of the most contested symbols of WWII
- Charles de Gaulle urged leaders to fight for France's colonies in Africa & stated that they not the Vichy France represented the true government of France

The Battle of Britain

- July 16, 1940 Hitler ordered Luftwaffe to achieve air superiority against Britain
- Luftwaffe never had a concessive plan against the British
- Luftwaffe's effort was improvisational
- British fighting over their own soil conserved fuel & pilots; when British pilots had to bail out they could be put back to action while Germans became prisoners of war
- The British had a perfect warning system; 50 radar stations ran along Britain's eastern coast
- National Physical Laboratory, 1940, invented finest radar network in the world
- Summer of 1940, British airplane manufacturing had begun to surpass German production (Royal Air Force)

The Battle Of Britain Part 2 (Obbo, Maame Esi)

- The battle of Britain would run from early July through the end of October 1940 .
- The Germans attack on Britain airfields had a serious effect on the RAF's ability to fight back (In the end of August).
- This made Hitler impatient with what he saw as a stalemate ,ordered a change in focus away from the airfields and onto London.
- Germans then formed a plan to bomb London.
- Germans hoped that by bombing London and other British cities they will make Britain fight.
- The attacks effect was terrible .It made Britain fight more and continue.
- September 17, Hitler was forced to postpone all invasions of Britain .
- Because of this the Luftwaffe started bombing British cities in order to lessen their losses.
- By the end of October , the RAF had lost 832 fighters against 668 for the Luftwaffe .
- Hitler was forced to realized that Britain would not be beaten (to submission).But he hoped that the upcoming invasion of the Soviet Union might force the British into accepting an accommodation with his new continental empire.

Operation Barbarossa

- In the summer of 1941 the German military made a plan to invade the Soviet Union
- They named this plan as Operation Barbarossa as a codename
- Germany was to destroy as much of the SU (Soviet Union) as possible and to paralyze the Soviet state.
- Germany put 3 million soldiers and 2700 planes on field . On June 22, 1941 Germany launched its invasion.
- This attack was divided by 3 separate army groups ,North, Central ,and South
- Germany gave up trying to capture Leningrad ,Kiev, and Moscow (attempt)
- In 1941 the war in SU(Soviet Union)had turned into a stalemate in which they (SU) are wining.
- now spies from Japan informed Stalin that the Japanese had no intent of attacking SU just transferring many soldiers over there.

Changing Attitudes in America

-September 1940 ,Roosevelt concluded the Destroyers for bases agreement with the British ,which gave the latter 50 World War I era destroyers that were badly needed to combat the Germans.

-In August Roosevelt and Churchill met to issue about the American And British war aims.

The Holocaust :Roots

-The Nazi systematically kill 6 million Jews

-Holocaust is the Greek word for " sacrifice by fire"

-The persecution of Jews go way back

-The Russian Empire also persecuted Jews like the Germans did

-The Nazi believed that the Jews were not at the same standards

-In all the Germans just HATED the Jews and will have no relation to them.

-In 1938 November 9-10 the anti-Jewish(Kristallnacht and The Night of Broken) violence broke out

-Even so the Germans still captured Jews .The states arrested over 30000 Jews and made many camps for some.

Final Solution Part 1

-Nazi created concentration camps for all opponents and Jews.The Germans started holding victims of ethic and racial hatred.

-Nazi started creating places ghettos and transit camps and forced Jews to work hard labor and soon kill them

Final Solution Part 2 (Zarate, Eduardo)

- Between 1941 and 1944, Nazi Germany authorities deported millions of Jews from Germany
- Jews were taken from ghettos and to killing centers, often called extermination camps, where they were murdered in specially developed gassing facilities

The End of Holocaust

- SS guards moved camp inmates by train or forced marches, often called "death marches"
- Germany began to encounter and liberate concentration camp prisoners
- many survivors found shelter in displaced persons camps
- These camps were administrated by the allied powers
- Jewish DPs emigrated to the U.S and other nations, the last DP camp closed in 1957

The Battle of Stalingrad

- July 1942 Hitler ordered the seizure of the city Stalingrad
- Hitler's rationale was purely on personal prestige
- Throughout September, October, and early November, German troops battled street-by-street
- Soviet military officials had been planning a massive counter attack code name Operation Uranus
- Soviet armored units smashed Romanian lines
- Herman Goering, head of the Luftwaffe
- He made an assurance that the army could be supplied solely by airdrops which was not a realistic option
- This bolstered Hitler's decision
- January 1943 Soviet forces began their assault against German forces in Stalingrad
- 147,000 Germans and Romanians died during the battle of Stalingrad while 91,000 became prisoners
- Soviet estimates of casualties go as high as 1,100,000 dead, wounded, or missing

The Battle of the Atlantic

- The battle was a struggle between the British and the Americans to keep safe

- April to December 1941, German submarines began to extend their patrols
- British code breakers were becoming more adept of breaking German naval codes

German Retreat in the East

- The collapse of Stalingrad signaled a weakening of the German positions
- Summer 1943 German army planned an attack on the Soviet city Kursk that it named Operation Citadel
- Germans hoped it would slow down the Soviet
- Battle of Kursk was one of the biggest human battles in history

1944:The War in Italy Part 1

- January 1943, Allied leaders decided to use their massive military resources in the Mediterranean to launch an invasion of Italy
- The objectives were to remove Italy from World War 2
- July 10, 1943, Operation Husky, the code name for the invasion of Sicily

1944:The War in Italy(part 2)

(Villa, Bethany)

- On July 24, 1943– Prime Minister Benito Mussolini(1883-1945) was deposed and arrested
- German commander– deployed 16 new divisions on the Italian mainland
- Adolf Hitler- didn't want to let the Allies establish air bases in Italy that could threaten Germany's southern cities as well as its primary oil supplies in Romania
- Adolf Hitler- instructed his army group commander to make the Allies pay dearly for every inch of their advance
- Under the resourceful Commander Kesselring's German forces- set up defensive lines across the narrow Italian peninsula
- May 1944, Allied breakout exposed Kesselring's main forces- to potential trap advancing Allied armies from Anza and Casino
- June 4, 1944,as General Clark's Fifth U.S. Army moved into Rome D- day landings scheduled for June 6- took priority over the Italian Campaign

The Second Front In France

- 1943- Allied plan for invasion across the English Channel on German-occupied France gathered steam
- November 1943, Adolf Hitler anticipated an invasion along France's northern coast(placing Erwin Rommel in charge of defensive operations in the region)
- January 1944, General Dwight Eisenhower appointed commander of Operation Overlord

- Normandy Eisenhower selected June 5, 1944- date for the invasion(delayed 24hrs based on bad weather)
- 5,000 ships, landing craft carrying troops, and supplies left England for the trip across the channel to France(more than 11,000 aircraft- mobilized to provide air cover and support for invasion)
- June 6, 6:30 a.m.- amphibious invasions began
- Allied forces faced opposition at beaches codenamed Gold, Juno, Sword, and Utah
- 2,000 American soldiers lost their life because of the heavy Resistant at Omaha beach
- Approximately 156,000 allied troops successfully stormed Normandy's beaches
- Reinforcements caused delays, because they had to be called from further afield
- Germans hampered by effective Allied air support, took out many key bridges, and forced Germans to take long detours as well as efficient Allied naval support- helped protect advancing Allied troops
- End of August 1944, Allies had reached Seine River, Paris liberated, and Germans had been removed from northwestern France(effectively concluding the Battle of Normandy)
- Allied forces prepared to enter Germany- and they would meet Soviet troops moving in from the east

The Drive on Germany, 1944

- Conclusion of Normandy invasion, Allied forces rapidly advanced across France into Belgium.
- Carrying attack on a broad scale, they demolished German resistance, and strove towards the German frontier

- Field Marshal Bernard Montgomery commanded and wished the 21st Army Group to attack over Lower Rhine into industrial Ruhr River.
- Montgomery developed Operation Market- Garden
- Beginning of October- serious shortages of gasoline(led to almost a complete shutdown)
- " Breaking space"- gave Hitler opportunity for a plan of major push in the west and regain the lost advantage
- Battle of Bulge- largest battle fought in the Western Front in Europe during WW2
- December 16- German attack began particularly impacted the American lines
- Crux of the battle centered- on the important road junction at Bastogne
- December 26- Allied force defending Bastogne receive a relief force from Lieutenant General George S. Patton's Third Army
- German ring around Bastogne was broken
- Nazi offensive- running out of fuel, literally, and figuratively
- Weather- slowed German ground troops and slowed the German advance
- Improving weather- allowed Allied planes to take skies again, support counterattacks that began pushing back the Germans

1944: The Drive on Germany (Part 2)

(Moreno, Jelani)

- while the British and American inroads in Eastern Front, the Soviet military continued to push back German forces
- as Red Army advanced on Warsaw in August 1944, the Polish resistance forces rose up opposition to the Nazi occupiers in Warsaw
- known as the Warsaw Uprising (August 1), its participants, however, lacked equipment and ammunition
- in the south the Soviets moved to gain a wider foot hold in Balkans in late August
- they knocked Romania out of the war, moved into Bulgaria, and then into Yugoslavia

The Yalta Conference:1945

- from February 4-11 1945, as the war entered its last phase, Roosevelt, Churchill, and Stalin met in Yalta, a former tsarist resort on the Crimean Peninsula overlooking the Black Sea
- The postwar occupation of Germany was also discussed as were an agreement to divide Germany into zones of occupation; a postwar United Nations to replace the failed League of Nations; the future of Poland and its government, as well as other European nations liberated from Nazi rule; and Soviet entry into the war against Japan
- The capital city of Berlin, which would be located deep in the Soviet zone, was also accordingly divided along this same pattern

- This was also decided Germany would pay reparations to the Allied powers- the figure was set at \$20 billion, fifty percent of which would go to the Soviets

Allied Advance in the West

- A joint American-Canadian assault in February 1945 forced German troops back across the Rhine, but the Allied forces desisted from moving further forward, as the Germans effectively destroyed any bridge that offered crossing
- American forces captured the city of Cologne by early March and reached the city of Bonn
- South of Bonn, General Patton

Soviet Advances In The West

- Beginning in Jan. The final Soviet offensive of the war began
- German resistance was almost nonexistent as Soviet armor surged to 20-30 miles a day
- On April 21 Soviet tanks entered into the northern suburbs of Berlin
- Beginning on April 26 an immense concentration of artillery prepared the way for an assault on the center of the city by 464,000 Soviet troops
- Hitler committed suicide in his private residence within the bunker
- In Asia and Pacific war against Japan raged

(Pike, Kyler)

- **1941- Germany invades Soviet Union**
- **Germany's invasion was a culmination of Hitler's war plans**
- **Hitler's plans was the key to German military**
- **Military broke in the fight on the Eastern front**
- **1942- Crucial year of Europe**
- **Germany was defensive on the remainder of war due to victories of Soviets at Stalingrad and British at El Alamen**

- 1942- First year American ground troops saw combat in the European Theatre against Germany. First in North Africa then Italy and then France.
- Casually, ground war would overshadow the Allied victory in the Battle of Atlantic in 1942. This was essential to the Allied victory of Germany.
- 1943- Allied invasion of Italy offered a quickened of war by knocking Italy out.
- Allies succeed by allowing an invasion on Southern Germany.
- War in Italy showcased a disastrous slideshow for Allied war effort.
- Men fighting war in Italy were proved to be deadly from start to end.
- 1944- Invasion of France
- Soviet advancing East = deathblow to Germany
- By late 1944, Germany's forces were collapsing on all fronts
- Franklin Roosevelt, Winston Churchill, and Joseph Stalin carried out European settlement out to Yalta.
- Yalta parties divided Germany out of occupation
- Issue of Poland became the key to cold war between Soviet Union and former Western Allies.
- By the early twentieth century, Nazi anti-Semitism drew on long-established traditions within European society.
- Nazi policy was evolutionary due to the first goal being to exterminate Jews of German society.
- This goal was accomplished by the passage of Nuremberg Race laws.
- The first step to a systematic program of isolation of Europe's Jewish population was the emerge of Einsatzgruppen
- The emerge of Einsatzgruppen was during operation Barbossa.

- **Warsaw Ghetto Uprising was a significant example of Jewish resistance of the Nazis.**